

IN THE CLAIMS:

The current claims follow. For claims not marked as amended in this response, any difference in the claims below and the previous state of the claims is unintentional and in the nature of a typographical error.

1. (Currently Amended) For association with a digital video recorder, a controller that multiplexes packetized elementary streams into a multiplexed program stream, said packetized elementary streams comprising PES packets of disparate size, said controller operable to (i) receive said PES packets into a memory buffer, (ii) reformat each of said received PES packets into at least one fixed-size program packet having a header and a payload, said header defining a payload content, including an indication of a time when the fixed-size program packet was processed, wherein the fixed size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk; and (iii) associate ones of said at least one fixed-size program packets into said multiplexed program stream.

2. (Original) The controller as set forth in Claim 1 further operable to store said multiplexed program stream in a storage disk.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Original) The controller as set forth in Claim 1 wherein each said header defines at least one of stream type, timing information and picture information.

5. (Original) The controller as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said header of each one of said at least one fixed-size program packet has a fixed size.

6. (Currently Amended) A digital video recorder capable of playing back a recorded program stream, said digital video recorder comprising:

a video processor capable of receiving an incoming program stream and converting said incoming program stream to a baseband signal capable of being displayed on a television associated with said digital video recorder;

a storage disk; and

a controller that multiplexes packetized elementary streams into a multiplexed program stream, said packetized elementary streams comprising PES packets of disparate size, said controller operable to (i) receive said PES packets into a memory buffer, (ii) reformat each of said received PES packets into at least one fixed-size program packet having a header and a payload, said header defining a payload content, including an indication of a time when the fixed-size program packet was processed, wherein the fixed size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk, and (iii) associate and store ones of said at least one fixed-size program packets into said multiplexed program stream in said storage disk.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein each said header defines a payload content of each said at least one fixed-size program packet.

9. (Original) The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein each said header defines at least one of stream type, timing information and picture information.

10. (Original) The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein said header of each one of said at least one fixed-size program packet has a fixed size.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of multiplexing packetized elementary streams into a multiplexed program stream for recording in a digital video recorder having a storage disk, said packetized elementary streams comprising PES packets of disparate size, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving said PES packets into a memory buffer;

reformatting each of said received PES packets into at least one fixed-size program packet having a header and a payload, said header defining a payload content, including an indication of a time when the fixed-size program packet was processed wherein the fixed-size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk; and

recording associated ones of said at least one fixed-size program packets as said multiplexed program stream in said storage disk.

12. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 further comprising the step of playing back said recorded program stream.

13. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 12 wherein said digital video recorder comprises a video processor, said method further comprising the steps of:

receiving said played-back program stream; and

converting said received program stream to a baseband signal capable of being displayed on a television associated with said digital video recorder.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein each said header defines a payload content of each said at least one fixed-size program packet.

16. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein each said header defines at least one of stream type, timing information and picture information.

17. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said header of each one of said at least one fixed-size program packet has a fixed size.

18. (Currently Amended) A multiplexed program stream recorded to a storage disk associated with a digital video recorder, said multiplexed program stream comprising a plurality of fixed-size program packets having a header and a payload, said header defining a payload content, including an indication of a time when the fixed-size program packet was processed, the fixed-size of said at least one fixed-size program paekets being a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk, ones of said plurality of fixed-size program packets comprising reformatted ones of a plurality of PES packets of disparate size, each of said plurality of PES packets associated with a packetized elementary stream received at said digital video recorder.

19. (Original) The multiplexed program stream as set forth in Claim 18 wherein each of said plurality of fixed-size program packets comprises a header and a payload, each said header defines at least one of stream type, timing information and picture information.

20. (Original) The multiplexed program stream as set forth in Claim 18 wherein each of said plurality of fixed-size program packets comprises a header and a payload, each said header having a fixed size.

21. (New) The controller as set forth in Claim 2 wherein the fixed size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk.

22. (New) The controller as set forth in Claim 6 wherein the fixed size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk.

23. (New) The method as set forth in Claim 11 wherein the fixed size of said at least one fixed-size program packets is a multiple of a sector size of said storage disk.